

Maine EMS Examination Committee Meeting

Tuesday, May 17, 2005

Maine EMS Conference Room, Augusta

Minutes - DRAFT

Present: Jacky Vaniotis – Chair, Trisha Coleman, Gary Utgard, Kelly Roderick, Bob Hawkes Darrell Gilman

Absent: Rick Doughty, Travis Norsworthy, Joanne LeBrun,

Staff: Drexell White

1. Call To Order - The meeting was called to order at 9:41 a.m.

A. Assign Timekeeper – Gary Utgard

B. Additions/Deletions to the Agenda – None

Drexell White reported that Bob Hawkes would be late in arriving and that Joanne LeBrun will not be attending due to a conflicting commitment.

2. Minutes – March 15, 2005, meeting minutes - review for acceptance

The minutes of the March 15, 2005 meeting were reviewed. Darrell questioned the meaning of the abbreviation “PW” on page 2 in the “Technology” section. PW is the abbreviation for password.

Motion: To accept the minutes of the March 15, 2005 meeting. (Coleman; LeBrun - motion carries).

3. Old Business

A. Paramedic Exam

The Committee outlined the pros and cons of testing options that have been identified. The three options are the National Registry of EMT, Prometric, or an examination system developed by Maine EMS.

The National Registry of EMT (NREMT) is a nationally recognized registration agency for EMS providers. NREMT currently provides written tests for Maine’s First Responder and EMT-B level.

Prometric is a private test writing company that submitted a response to Maine EMS’ Paramedic Exam Request for Information (RFI).

The Examination System developed by Maine EMS is a Committee concept whereby Maine EMS would develop examinations and the infrastructure to deliver the exams through a Web-based application that would potentially allow greater flexibility for examination, scoring and maintenance.

The table on page 2 outlines the pros and cons identified for each of the three models.

National Registry Of EMTs		Prometric		Maine EMS Concept	
Pros	Cons	Pros	Cons	Pros	Cons
Familiar	CAT (Computer Adaptive Test) – Incr Cost to Candidates	Test written specifically for Maine	Significant Contract Costs	Maine EMS –developed Exam and Infrastructure	Initial Resources to Develop Exam Blueprint and, Exam Questions
Already Written	Cost dictated by NREMT	Test can be based upon Maine Protocols	No EMS Exam Writing Experience	Maine EMS Ownership	Initial and ongoing costs to develop and maintain Software/infrastructure.
No Direct Costs to MEMS	NREMT owns the Exams	Contract can provide for regular revisions	? EMS Test Writer Experience	Immediate results and feedback	Requires Backend and web-based software development.
Nationally Recognized	CAT – Limited test sites proposed	No change needed to practical exam	CAT – Limited sites	Multiple locations	Deliverable -? Years
Defensible	Tests don't reflect MEMS protocol	Structure contract and test to Maine standards	Requires Development Time	Asynchronous start times	
Allows Performance Comparison with other States	Intermediate level can't be used because of Maine/National curriculum differences	Maine owns the exams		Exam based upon Maine EMS protocol and curriculum	
Ease of Reciprocity	Practical Exam subject to NREMT approval	CAT – 1-3 Day turnaround		Test fees stay in and maintain system	
Written by EMS Professionals	Concern of testing by task analysis instead of curriculum	All exams under one system.		Question Analysis can be included	
Tests Available Now	Problems with getting results	Services can be contracted as needed		No modification to practical exam	
	Results turnaround after reaching NREMT			All exams under 1 system – Infrastructure will support all exam levels.	
	MEMS subject to Registry Req.			Maintain currency of exam	
	Will still need to rely on another system for Intermediate testing			Online application, scheduling and processing	
				Greater Candidate Access	

Questions that were posed were:

1. Would Prometric agree to have EMS professionals write the exam?
2. If Prometric or Maine EMS develops the exam, can we then develop a web-based interface
3. Will NREMT have paper and pencil testing available after transitioning to Computer Adaptive Testing (CAT)?
4. Will NREMT test sites be able to modify exam to allow for disability accommodations?
5. What is the development time for Prometric?

Kelly Roderick volunteered to follow-up on the questions with help of staff.

Consensus of the committee was to have the chair and staff draft a report to the Board outlining the options and seeking guidance about which model to pursue.

B. Student Handbook – Status –

Drexell reported that Maine EMS staff person Dawn Kinney continues to work on the handbook. However, the handbook is on the back burner as staff time has been redirected to licensing functions since Melissa Donovan, licensing assistant, left Maine EMS employment approximately 2 weeks ago to return to her former department.

C. EMT-B Practical – Data Collection Format

The patient assessment skill sheets developed by Darrell Gilman for the next round of reviews have been sent to the regions. The patient assessment review will continue to September 30, 2005.

4. New Business

A. Education Committee Referral

1. Airway Module – Exam Considerations

2. Spinal Assessment – Exam Considerations

Staff passed out the training information (available on the Maine EMS website) concerning the new airway module and the current spinal assessment module. The Education Committee referred the airway and assessment modules to the Exam Committee for review about whether the Maine EMS licensing exams need to be modified so that exam candidates are tested on the new information and skills.

This topic will be added to the Exam Committee's June agenda, as there was not sufficient time to begin discussion of the topics at this meeting.

B. Personnel Issues

Bob Hawkes reported that he has been accepted into the University of New England Physician Assistant Program and will be entering the program this summer. He expressed his intent to continue as a member of the Exam Committee.

5. Next Meeting

A. Set Agenda - Next agenda to include:

- 1. Paramedic Exam**
- 2. Student Handbook - status**
- 3. EMT-B Practical Skill Station Data**
- 4. Airway and Spinal Module – Review for Exam Considerations**

B. Set Date and Time

The next meeting is scheduled for June 21, 2005 at Maine EMS, 45 Commerce Drive, Suite 1 in Augusta.

6. Adjournment - The meeting was adjourned at 12:14 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Drexell White